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Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 EUR-12 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 HA-05
/077 W
----------056813 172101Z /64
R 171057Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9400

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FOR INR

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, UR, IR
SUBJ: HOST GOVERNMENT PUBLIC REACTION TO SOVIET TALKS

REF: STATE 178559

1. RECENT TRIALS AND SENTENCINGS OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS RECEIVED WIDESPREAD PLAY IN IRANIAN MEDIA, PARTICULARLY THE PRESS. SO ALSO DID PRESIDENT'S AND SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS ON THE ISSUE, AS WELL AS COMMENTARY BY VARIOUS WESTERN NEWS COLUMNISTS AND OTHERS. SO FAR, HOWEVER, THER HAS BEEN NO IRANIAN COMMENT NOR EDITORIALS. NEWSPAPERS IN IRAN, WHILE CONSIDERABLY MORE INDIVIDUALISTIC THAN BEFORE, ARE STILL EXPECTED TO FOLLOW GOVERNMENT POLICY IN FOREIGN AFFARIS AND DEFENSE MATTERS AND ANY COMMENT THEY MIGHT HAVE MADE WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE BEEN INTERPRETED BY EVERYBODY AS GOVERNMENT COMMENT.

2. WHILE THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HESITATE TO GIVE ITS OPINION ON SOMETHING DIRECTLY RELATING TO IRANIAN INTERESTS OR RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION, THIS ISSUE WAS PROBABLY SEEN AS SOMETHING IRANIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD DO WELL TO STAY
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OUT OF. THE GOI'S SILENCE IS PROBABLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO ITS TRADITIONALLY CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO INTERNAL MATTERS OF ALL STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION IN PARTICULAR.

3. AS POSSIBLE INDICATION OF INHIBITING FACTOR WOULD BE PERSONAL COMMENT MADE TO ONE EMB OFFICER BY MFA DEPARTMENT HEAD PRIVATELY. HE WONDERED WHY USG FELT IT HAD THE RIGHT TO

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TELL SOVIET UNION IT COULD NOT BRING SOME OF ITS CITIZENS
TO TRIAL. ALTHOUGH EMB OFFICER PRESENTED THE SUITABLE COUNTER-
ARGUMENTS, INCLUDING THE RELEVANCE OF THESE CASES TO AN AGREE-
MENT SIGNED BY THE SOVIET UNION, THE NATURE OF THE INQUIRY
WAS REVEALING.
NAAS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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